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Contact:
Alex Roth – 619-980-2679

MAYOR JERRY SANDERS

FACT SHEET

MAYOR THANKS COUNCIL FOR VOTE ON CONVENTION CENTER EXPANSION

Council takes next step on path to approving project

Mayor Jerry Sanders thanked the City Council for voting Tuesday to take the next in forming the Convention Center Facilities District, which will be the primary source of funding to expand the San Diego Convention Center. The Facilities District will raise money through a special assessment on local hotels, which stand to gain substantially from the project.

“The wisdom of this vote should be evident to everyone who has studied the numbers and understands the limitations of our current convention center,” the mayor said. “Expanding the convention center means more visitors, more jobs, more tax revenue and more income for our hotels, restaurants and other businesses.”

The expansion would create the largest contiguous exhibit space of any convention center on the West Coast, enabling San Diego to retain and attract conventions of the sort that need more space than the current facility can provide. Just a few examples of these conventions: Comic-Con, the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society.

The estimated regional economic impact of this expansion would be nearly \$700 million a year and would create 7,000 new jobs. It would also raise an estimated \$12 million a year in additional tax revenue that can go toward police, firefighting, libraries and other vital city services.

The hoteliers are expected to vote in the spring on the financing plan.

For more information on the project, visit the website ConventionCenterTaskForce.org.

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